

Academy Day

International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)

Bremen, Germany – Sunday September 28, 2003

PLENARY SESSION

Open to all Registered Congress Attendees

14h00 to 17h00

Introduction of the Academy Laurels for Team Achievement

The 2003 Academy Award of Laurels for Team Achievement goes to the team of the

Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO)

For

The development and operation of a world-class mission leading to substantial advancements in understanding the sun and the solar-terrestrial relationship.

The key members of the Team will be introduced and they will give selected presentations on the SOHO project and its findings.

The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) is a development of the European Space Agency (ESA). The observatory is stationed between the Sun and the Earth at a "Lagrange" point 1.5 million kilometers above our planet. Hence SOHO orbits with the Earth around the Sun and maintains its position on a direct line of sight between these two bodies. SOHO has the Sun "in focus" day and night and continuously transmits its findings to receiving stations on the Earth. Solar winds, which can have devastating effects on electric circuits, reach SOHO just a few minutes prior to "attacking" satellites in Earth orbit or electric power generator stations on the Earth surface.

Mankind's knowledge and understanding of the dynamic processes within and around the Sun and of the solar-terrestrial interactions have multiplied manifold since SOHO began its observations in 1995.

